

## MISCELLANEOUS.

MOVEMENT OF THE STYLE OF *GOLDFUSSIA ANISOPHYLLA*.

The following note by M. Morren accompanied the presentation to the Royal Academy of Brussels of a Memoir, entitled "Researches on the Movement and Anatomy of the Style of *Goldfussia anisophylla*," referred to above in p. 396.

"The object of the memoir which I now present to the Academy is to make known the mechanism employed by nature to move the pistil of this interesting plant. In his new Physiology (1838), M. Treviranus regretted that I had not explained my ideas relative to the movement of the column of the Styliidiæ, a movement of which I saw the cause in the excitability of the fecule, considered as an organized part, as a living organ of the plant, and not as a chemical product, as an inert substance. I now fulfill the wish of M. Treviranus by this fresh memoir. The movement of the style of the *Goldfussia* had escaped the investigation of naturalists; it is notwithstanding very remarkable. Most of the flowers in which we see a moveable pistil possess a bilabiate stigma; here the moveable part is awl-shaped and rather spindle-shaped. The true stigma occupies only the dorsal part of the style, and when it bends back it removes as far as possible from the stamina; when it again erects itself, it comes in contact with collecting hairs, which from the position of the flower, or by the help of insects, receive the pollen. The final cause of the phænomenon is very certainly the accomplishment of fecundation; but the mechanical cause is seated in the distension of the cylindrenchyme of the stigma; its tissue is formed by long cylinders dilatible at one or other of the extremities, and each is filled with a liquid containing globules. These globules are excitable. They are naturally carried towards the outer extremities of the cylindrenchyme, and then these extremities dilating, make the stigma bend; but when it is touched the globules and the liquid flow back to the bottom of the cylinders, and in this case, this side becoming the longest, the style erects or bends itself in a direction the reverse of that which it had before. The physiological cause resides therefore in the excitability of a vital fluid. I have made several series of experiments to prove these assertions, and I have given the anatomy of the parts. I am not aware that a similar structure has ever been found in a moveable part of plants.

"The morphology and the metamorphoses of the hairs likewise furnished as to this plant some curious observations. I have taken

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*ECHINOSPERMUM LAPPULA.*

*Echinospermum lappula*, Lehm.—My friend, the Rev. E. A. Holmes, F.L.S., has communicated to me specimens of this most interesting addition to the English Flora, which were gathered by him between Southwold and Walderswick, on the Suffolk coast, in the month of August, 1839. They grew upon the inner slope of a broad gravelly bank which divides some marshes from the sea, at about 150 yards from high water mark, and had all the appearance of being aboriginal natives of England.—CHARLES C. BABINGTON.

GUIANA EXPEDITION.

The collection of Objects of Natural History made by Mr. Schomburgk in the course of his expedition in Guiana from 1835 to 1839, together with numerous specimens of the implements, weapons, dresses, and other works of art of the natives, with drawings of various objects and views of the country, the El Dorado of Sir Walter Raleigh, now form a very attractive public Exhibition at No. 209, Regent-street.

A specimen of the remarkable freshwater fish the Pirarucu (*Sudis Gigas*), a full-sized representation of the *Victoria Regia*, with a geological collection illustrating the formation of the district, are among the many objects of interest. The exhibition is attended by three of the Aborigines from the interior of Guiana, the first who ever visited Europe, natives of three Indian tribes, a Macusi, a Warrau, and a Paravilhana.

A Prospectus has also been issued for the publication of twelve Views, of the very interesting districts now first explored by Mr. Schomburgk; and as their execution must depend upon a number of subscribers sufficient to defray the expense, we trust he will not fail in obtaining adequate support.

GREW "ON THE PRINCIPLES OF BODIES."

"The Principles of Bodies, as they must of necessity have their dimensions, and therefore their solid figures, so withal they may be infinitely small, not only beyond all naked or assisted sense, but beyond all arithmetical operation or conception.

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